

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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R 281330Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3059

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AEMBASSY TEHRAN 2869

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (DUPONT, PIERRE S.), MASS, KU

SUBJ: VISIT TO KUWAIT OF CONGRESSMAN DUPONT

REF: STATE 113297

1. CONGRESSMAN PEIRRE DUPONT VISITED KUWAIT MAY 26-27 ON FACT-FINDING TOUR, WITH PRINCIPAL INTEREST, FMS PROGRAMS. IN ABSENCE MINDEF, WHO ACCOMPANYING AMIR ON STATE VISIT TO FRANCE, CONGRESSMAN MET WITH KUWAIT ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF MUBARAK IN HOUR-LONG MEETING. EXPLAINED INTENTION CONGRESS TO DEBATE ARMS SLAES TO MIDDLE EAST DURING CURRENT SESSION AND SOLICITED MUBARAK'S VIEWS RE KUWAITIS SECURITY SITUATION, TRANSFER OF US ARMAAMENTS TO THIRD COUNTRIES AND ABILITY KAF TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT PERSONNEL TO INTEGRATE EFFECTIVE NEW WEAPONS SYSTEMS. CONGRESSMAN STRESSED US WOULD HONOR EXISTING COMMITMENTS? BUT CONGRESS CONCERNED REGARDING APPROPRIATENESS ADDITIONAL ARMS SALES IN AREA.

2. SURPISINGLY, MUBARAK UNDERPLAYED KUWAITI SECURITY PROBLEMS VIS-A-VIS IRAQ INTIMATING THAT SETTLEMENT BOUNDARY DISPUTE NOW BELIEVED LIKELY BY GOK. ALSO DISPLAYED ONLY MINOR CONCERN RE
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POSSIBLE AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS IRAN OR SAUDI ARABIA TOWARDS KUWAIT.

ON OTHER AND, MADE STRONG CASE NEED OF KUWAIT TO MODERNIZE ARMED FORCES LEAVING CONGRESSMAN WITH IMPRESSION GOK SEEKING "SWISS-TYPE" MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT. GEN. MBARAK ASSURED CONGRESSMAN DUPONT ADEQUATE PERSONNEL WOULD BE AVAILABLE, BUT ACKNOWLEDGED KAF TRAINING NEEDS. HE AVOIDED DIRECT RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ASSURANCES ARMS WOULD NOT BE SENT TO THIRD COUNTRIES, SIMPLY STATING NO TRANSFERS NOT IN "INTEREST USG AND GOK WOULD BE MADE." CONGRESSMAN PARRIED SKILLFULLY SERIES OF QUESTIONS RE USG INTENTIONS IN AREA AND ELSEWHERE, INCLUDING SUGGESTION BY MUBARAK US/USSR HAD REACHED SECRET AGREEMENT AT VLADIVOSTOK RESULTING IN FALL SAIGON GOVERNMENT.

3. IN MEETING WITH OIL MINISTRY UNDER SECRETARY ADASANI, CONGRESSMAN RECEIVED STANDARD GOK EXPOSITION KUWAIT OIL AND INVESTMENT POLICIES. ONLY POINT OF POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANCE WAS ASSURANCES GIVEN BY ADASANI GOK WOULD NOT TAKE DECISION TO INCREASE OIL PRICES BEFORE SEPTEMBER. MEETING WITH ACTING PRIME MINISTER CANCELLED BECAUSE OF MARARIOS' VISIT. CONGRESSMAN ATTENDED MORNING SESSION NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND RECEIVED FULL AND DETAILED BRIEFING RE FMS AND OTHER MATTERS FROM EMBASSY STAFF. CHARGE HOSTED RECEPTION ON NIGHT OF ARRIVAL. AMPLE PRESS TREATMENT ACCORDED VISIT, STRESSING INTENTION CONGRESS REASSESS US ARMS SALES TO AREA. CONGRESSMAN APPEARED PLEASED WITH BOTH SUBSTANCE MEETINGS AND ARRANGEMENTS MADE BY EMBASSY. MAU

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